

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 have been examined. Claims 1-2, 8-10 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 3-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 5-7 are allowed, and claims 11 and 12 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,514,742 to Suga et al. (“Suga”).

Claims 1-2, 8-10 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suga.

A. Claim 1

As stated above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 12 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claim 12 into claim 1, and submits that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

B. Claims 2, 8-10 and 13

Since claims 2, 8-10 and 13 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Suga in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,086,193 to Shimada et al. ("Shimada").

Claims 3-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suga in view of Shimada. However, since claims 3 and 4 are dependent upon claim 1, and claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12, Applicant submits that claims 3 and 4 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

As stated above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 5-7 are allowed, and claims 11 and 12 contain allowable subject matter. As noted above, Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 12 into claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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